

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7115

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABAB

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3216

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF PS PRESIDENT ON ANGOLA

REF: LISBON 3022 (DTG 061720Z MAY 76)(NOTAL)

1. ANTONIO MACEDO, WHO HOLDS LARGELY HONORARY POSITION OF
SOCIALIST PARTY VISITED LUANDA OVER MAY DAY WEEKEND AS A
GUEST OF PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO. MACEDO, A PROMINENT LAWYER,
HAD DEFENDED NATO DURING THE LATE FIFTIES, WHEN THE LATTER
WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL
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ON BEHALF OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

MACEDO'S PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM LUANDA BROUGHT A HEATED REBUTTAL FROM "ACTIVE REVOLT" LEADER JOAQUIM PINTO DE ANDRADE (REFTEL). ON MAY 11 OUR CONSUL IN OPORTO MET WITH MACEDO TO DISCUSS THE ANGOLA TRIP. HIS REPORT SUMMARIZING MACEDO'S REMARKS FOLLOWS:

2. ANGOLA -- GENERAL IMPRESSIONS: MACEDO SPENT FIVE DAYS IN LUANDA OVER MAY DAY WEEKEND AS GUEST OF NETO. FEW CUBANS IN EVIDENCE. CITY CONDITION POOR; PUBLIC SERVICES SCARCE; MORE ROADS CLOSED THAN OPEN. CERTAIN SENSE OF ISOLATION PREVAILED. FEW REMAINING PORTUGUESE HAD ALMOST ALL SENT FAMILIES ABROAD AND NOW ACTED IN LOW PROFILE. ONLY THREE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS SPOKE AT MAY DAY FESTIVITIES: RUSSIAN, CUBAN AND VIETNAMESE.

3. ANGOLAN INTERNAL SECURITY: INTERIOR ANGOLA IS NOT PACIFIED NOR IS MPLA UNIFIED AROUND NETO. TWO AREAS WHERE CUBAN SOLDIERS MAY BE CONCENTRATED ARE MALANGE AND NOVA LISBOA. LUANDA IS QUIET. PINTO ANDRADE IS NOT IN PRISON BUT OTHERS, NOT IN ACCORD WITH CURRENT MPLA LEADERSHIP, HAVE BEEN JAILED.

4. ANGOLAN - CUBAN RELATIONS: NETO IS PAYING PRICE FOR HAVING CUBANS AND RUSSIANS WIN WAR FOR MPLA. PRICE IS CONTINUED TOLERANCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBANS ON ANGOLAN SOIL UNDER NO CONTROLS OR CONDITIONS. MACEDO BELIEVES CUBANS ARE PREPARING AND TRAINING FORCES IN THE BUSH FOR ATTACKS ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, HENCE THEIR ABSENCE IN LUANDA. MACEDO HEARD NO COMPLAINTS TOWARD CUBANS WHO WERE CHARACTERIZED AS WELL-DISCIPLINED, PROFESSIONAL, AND ORDERLY. DEFECTOR CASES WERE RARE EXCEPTIONS.

5. ANGOLAN - PORTUGUESE RELATIONS: DESCRIBED AS BAD AND GETTING WORSE. ANGOLAN LEADERSHIP IS ARROGANT AND INTOLERANT. MPLA SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS SMALL BOMBING INCIDENT AT CASA DE ANGOLA AND ANTI-MPLA TONE OF PORTUGUESE PRESS TO HAVE BEEN PROVOKED OR AT LEAST TOLERATED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. DESPITE CLEAR NEED

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FOR TECHNICIANS AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, CHANCE FOR RETURN OF ANY REFUGEES IS NIL. NOR DOES THERE APPEAR ANY POSSIBILITY OF GETTING PORTUGUESE ASSETS OUT OF ANGOLA. MACEDO SAID THAT TOTAL COST OF DECOLONIZATION WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER THAN COSTS OF FIGHTING COLONIAL WARS.

6. ANGOLAN - U.S. RELATIONS: GIVEN THE ARROGANCE AND

SENSITIVITY OF CURRENT MPLA LEADERSHIP, MACEDO CONSIDERED
AMERICAN POLICY OPTIONS TO BE EXTREMELY LIMITED. HE
WONDERED WHETHER U.S. WAS WORKING THROUGH BRAZIL
TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH LUANDA.
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